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TENNESSEE FARMERS REPORT 2001 CROP ACREAGE

Based on a June 1 crop acreage survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, the State's agricultural producers planted more cotton in 2001 compared to a year ago but less corn, soybeans, winter wheat, and tobacco. Favorable weather conditions this spring allowed producers to plant most of the crops well ahead of schedule, and most were rated in good condition as of June 1. Total **cotton** acreage in the Volunteer State is estimated at 610,000 acres, up 7 percent from the previous year and the highest level in the State since 1995. Better price expectations relative to other crops and positive results from the Boll Weevil Eradication Program both led to the shift in acreage. Conversely, high input costs and fears of another summer drought led to nearly a 9 percent decline in the State's soybean acreage. As of June 1, **soybean** acreage was estimated at 1.08 million acres, 100,000 acres less than was planted last year and the lowest level in the State since 1.05 million acres were planted in 1995. The majority of the acreage has been planted, with only a small amount of double-cropped soybeans remaining to be seeded. The State's **corn** acreage declined 20,000 acres from the previous year due to normal crop rotations, rising fertilizer costs, and an increase in sorghum acreage. Total planted acreage is estimated at 630,000, with 570,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain. The remaining acreage is expected to be harvested as silage. Tennessee's **burley** tobacco acreage declined for the second straight year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 34,000 acres, 3,000 less than last year and off 21,000 from two years ago. Acreage declines for Dark fire-cured and Dark air-cured were reported due to cuts in program allotments. An estimated 330,000 acres of **winter wheat** is currently being harvested across the State, 13 percent less than was harvested in 2000. Sorghum acreage increased 20 percent from last year to 30,000, with 26,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain.

COTTON ACREAGE AT SIX YEAR HIGH

Tennessee's 2001 cotton acreage is estimated at 610,000, 7 percent above the previous year and the highest level since 1995. Favorable demand relative to other crops and continued success of the Boll Weevil Eradication program are some of the driving forces behind the increase. Producers had ideal weather conditions this spring and planted the crop in record time. Virtually all of the acreage was planted by May 20 with very few growers having to re-seed damaged fields. Wet weather and cool temperatures caused some disease problems, but much warmer temperatures and dry conditions have helped the crop recover.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE DECLINES IN 2001

Tennessee's soybean acreage is estimated at 1.08 million acres, down 100,000 acres from the previous year and the lowest State level since 1995. Some of the acreage loss was due to the shift in cotton, but many producers decided not to plant some of their marginal land due to high input costs and low price expectations. Planting of this year's crop has been running nearly two weeks ahead of the State's five-year average with growers currently planting the remainder of their double-cropped beans.

CORN ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

The State's corn acreage declined slightly from last year to an estimated 630,000 acres, 20,000 less than was planted in 2000. Increased prices for nitrogen fertilizer and some producers introducing sorghum into their crop rotations were the main reason for the decline. The 2001 growing season to date has been ideal for corn. Planting was completed ahead of schedule and growers were able to top-dress the crop at the proper time. The majority of the acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition as of June 1. The crop is currently entering the critical pollination stage and will need adequate moisture and moderate temperatures to develop properly.

(OVER)

HIGH LEASE RATES DRIVE TOBACCO ACREAGE DOWN

The State’s burley tobacco acreage has declined for the second straight year. Harvested acreage for 2001 is estimated at 34,000, down 3,000 acres from a year ago and 21,000 acres less than was harvested in 1999. Unusually high lease rates have forced many producers to reduce acreage. High lease rates coupled with a sharp drop in allotments have also led to decline in the State’s Dark fired-cured acreage. Type 22, Eastern dark-fired declined 1,600 acres from last year to an estimated 6,100 acres, while Type 23 Western dark-fired declined 140 acres to an estimated 500 harvested acres. Type 35, Dark air-cured is estimated at 620 acres, 9 percent below last year. Despite some weather delays this spring, most growers were able to transplant their crop on schedule. Very little disease or insect problems have been encountered thus far.

DRY FALL CONDITIONS LEAD TO DECLINE IN WHEAT ACREAGE

Producers seeded a total of 500,000 winter wheat acres last fall and are expected to harvest 330,000 acres for grain. This is 13 percent less acreage than was harvested in 2000. The remaining acres will be used as a cover crop, cut for hay, or harvested as silage. Dry conditions last fall caused numerous delays and kept many growers from planting all their intended acreage. As of June 1, the crop was rated in fair-to-good condition with an expected yield of 55 bushels per acre.

HAY ACREAGE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Hay producers plan to harvest 2.09 million acres in 2001, 50,000 acres more than the previous year. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 35,000, unchanged from last year. All other hay is estimated to increase to 2.05 million acres. An increase in the State’s cattle herd is the primary reason for the expected increase in 2001. Harvest started under excellent conditions with most alfalfa growers reporting good yields and quality. However, numerous rain showers near the end of May delayed additional cuttings of grass hay.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS: TENNESSEE AND U.S., 2000-2001

| Crop | Planted Acres | | Harvested Acres | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2001 / 2000 |
| | 1,000 Acres | | Percent | | |
| TENNESSEE | | | | | |
| Corn | 650 | 630 | 590 | 570 | 97 |
| Cotton | 570 | 610 | 565 | ¹ | - |
| Soybeans | 1,180 | 1,080 | 1,150 | 1,050 | 91 |
| Winter Wheat | 550 | 500 | 380 | 330 | 87 |
| Sorghum | 25 | 30 | 22 | 26 | 118 |
| Hay, all | - | - | 2,035 | 2,085 | 102 |
| Alfalfa | - | - | 35 | 35 | 100 |
| All other | - | - | 2,000 | 2,050 | 103 |
| Tobacco, all | - | - | 46.02 | 41.22 | 90 |
| Eastern dark-fired (22) | - | - | 7.70 | 6.10 | 79 |
| Western dark-fired (23) | - | - | .64 | .50 | 78 |
| Burley (31) | - | - | 37.00 | 34.00 | 92 |
| One sucker (35) | - | - | .68 | .62 | 91 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | |
| Corn | 79,545 | 76,109 | 72,732 | 69,291 | 95 |
| Cotton ² | 15,517 | 16,289 | 13,053 | ¹ | - |
| Soybeans | 74,496 | 75,416 | 72,718 | 74,337 | 102 |
| Winter Wheat | 43,348 | 41,318 | 35,022 | 31,657 | 90 |
| Sorghum | 9,195 | 9,747 | 7,723 | 8,857 | 115 |
| Hay, all | - | - | 59,854 | 63,833 | 107 |
| Alfalfa | - | - | 23,077 | 23,750 | 103 |
| All other | - | - | 36,777 | 40,083 | 109 |
| Tobacco, all | - | - | 210.04 | 190.50 | 91 |
| Eastern dark-fired (22) | - | - | 11.80 | 9.40 | 80 |
| Western dark-fired (23) | - | - | 4.44 | 3.60 | 81 |
| Burley (31) | - | - | 185.40 | 174.90 | 94 |
| One sucker (35) | - | - | 3.78 | 3.42 | 90 |

¹Estimate to be released August 10, 2001. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.